

# Muscogee

March 15, 2012  
Vol. 42, Issue 6

## Nation News

Official semi-monthly publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

# MCN is a nation on the ‘move’



MNN/Gary Fife

Pictured above are General Services Administration employees Silas Baker and Mike Harjo who aided in the efforts of moving several offices on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Capitol Complex during the month of March.

**Gary Fife**  
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has been making changes. Citizens will find many tribal officials and services in new locations.

The Office of the Principal Chief has moved from the tribal complex building to the tribal construction engineering building (next door

to VASO). The offices of the Second Chief have also been relocated to the same building.

The Executive Director's office has been moved into the space just vacated by the Principal Chief and staff in the main building.

The Communications Department has moved to the former Trade

and Commerce warehouse.

Trade and Commerce staff has been moved to the Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise located at 1018 S. Wood Drive.

Tourism and Recreation offices are now located in the Mvskoke Dome.

Tribal Construction is now in

the main complex, along with the Geospatial Department.

Tribal Affairs is in the old Executive Director's space.

The Self-Governance staff is now working out of the Finance Building.

According to GSA, there may be more changes in the future.



## Special Election set for March 26-28, 2012

**Media Release**  
MCN Election Board

OKMULGEE — In order to comply with Article VI, Section 2 of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution, a Special Election will be held for Seat B in both Creek and Wagoner Districts.

The Filing Period for vacant seats is set for March 26-28, 2012.

The Special Primary Election will be May 5, 2012.

The Special General Election will be July 7, 2012, if necessary.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution was recently amended to state representation of the National Council to be reduced from 26 representatives to 16 representatives by the end of 2013 with staggered terms.

A General Election was held Nov. 5, 2011 to fill vacant seats of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council for the Palen-Kolvpohkaken (17th) Session. George Tiger was sworn in to office as Principal Chief Jan. 2, 2012 and vacated National Council Representative Seat B (Creek District) with approximately two years remaining.

An election was held for one seat for the Wagoner District for the next four years, and one seat remains vacant.

For more information, contact the the MCN Election Board at (918) 732-7682.

## Community forum and workshop set for March 23

**Media Release**  
MCN Community Development

OKMULGEE — Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development will be hosting a community workshop Friday, March 23 from 9 a.m.-noon at the Mvskoke Dome located at the Claude Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee.

Following the workshop, Principal Chief Tiger will conduct a Community Forum at 1 p.m. All board members are encouraged to attend, as well as any interested community members.

Communities are asked to register the number of community members who will be attending by contacting the Community Research Department at (918) 732-7963. Registration forms should be submitted by March 16, 2012.

Okemah Community CEOFamous Marshall will conduct a presentation on Robert's Rules of Order.

Continental breakfast and lunch will be served.

# Bradley-Smith nominated as first female municipal judge of Muskogee

**Sterling Cosper**  
MNN Reporter

MUSKOGEE — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Toni Bradley-Smith was recently nominated as the first female judge of Muskogee, outside of the federal court system. Smith received a seemingly fitting nomination by the city's youngest, mayor Tyler Hammons, and was voted in unanimously by the city council.

"Tyler called me because there was going to be a position, and asked me if I would be interested. I said, 'Absolutely, it's something I always wanted to do,'" said Smith.

Smith has had a warm reception. "Everyone has been very supportive. I hear people say, 'Finally we have a woman, how has it taken this long?'"

A native of Muskogee, Smith grew up going to the local public

schools before leaving for Southern Methodist University in Dallas to begin her post-secondary education. "I graduated from there with a bachelor's in marketing. I went directly from there to Oklahoma University College of Law," she added.

She graduated from the law program at OU and returned to Muskogee. "I went into private practice here and continued that for about a year and a half to two years. I did a broad range of things," said Smith.

Smith still provides legal council for Armstrong Bank in Muskogee as a full-time position and works part-time as municipal judge. "I'm called to sit on the bench any time Bart Fite, our main municipal judge, is unavailable. When we do have court it's usually at 8:30 a.m., for about an hour, so it's not a huge time commitment. I get the ex-

perience of being a judge without having to give up this job, which I love."

She may be a native of Muskogee, but Smith is also a Muscogee (Creek) Native. Her roots in the jurisdiction she oversees run deep and her identification with her Indian heritage shares a similar depth.

"It's always been a part of my life. My Creek heritage comes from my mother's side of the family, and it has always been important to us to discuss being Creek. My grandfather, who was a wonderful man, was my symbol of the perfect person. He is where my Creek heritage comes from and he was always very proud," said Smith.

SEE JUDGE - 6

### MNN 2 - LEGAL

Tulsa Library Circle of Honor recognizes Kickingbird



### MNN 3 - CALENDAR

MCN Southern Regional Offices Calendar

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri

### MNN 5 - PEOPLE

And Still the Waters Run: Ft. Mims



### MNN 6 - LOCAL NEWS

Five Tribes Museum to host 'Art Under the Oaks' event



### MNN 7 - COMMUNITY

Creek Citizen Minnie Charles turns 100







## Muscogee Nation News STAFF

Manager - Gerald Wofford  
Editor - Rebecca Landsberry  
Editorial Assistant - Gary Fife  
Reporter - Sterling Cosper

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Editorial statements appearing in **The Muscogee Nation News**, guest columns and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of **The Muscogee Nation News**, its advisors or the tribal administration and are subject to editorial discretion. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

**The Muscogee Nation News** is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

To submit a change of address or a letter to the editor, call (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@muscogeenation-nsn.gov



## Mvskoke Radio to adopt hour-long format beginning March 21

**Gary Fife**  
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKMULGEE —The tribally produced half hour radio program, “Mvskoke Radio” will grow to a full hour on Wednesday, March 21.

Broadcast at 9:30 a.m., on KOKL 1240 AM in Okmulgee, Mvskoke Radio's full hour program will be the latest effort by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department to increase its service to Creek citizens.

The hour-long program will occur once a month until summer, when plans are to make all of the shows a full hour.

Timely interviews with tribal officials, cultural leaders, artists and special features will be included in the new, longer program. A special listener call-in show once a month will enable Creek citizens to ask questions on-air with radio guests. Those would include the Principal Chief, National Council Speaker and representatives and other special guests. Features such as the community news segment would be able to include community items.

For more information, contact Gary Fife, 918-732-7643.



# Tulsa Library Circle of Honor recognizes Kickingbird for work as legal author

**Gary Fife**  
MNN Editorial Assistant

TULSA—Kiowa lawyer and author Kirk Kickingbird was inducted into the Tulsa Library's Circle of Honor, March 3., 2012 for his career of working in Native American law and as an author on tribal relations with the United States government. The Circle of Honor acknowledges Native people who have made significant contributions to the world and have enriched the lives of others.

He has served the Native American Legal Resource Center at the Oklahoma City University School of Law and was appointed as a special counsel on Indian Affairs to the governor of Okla. “It's really satisfying; I've worked for years to try to support tribes, and it feels like this is a ‘thank you’ for that,” Kickingbird said.

A member of the Kiowa Gourd Clan, he was honored with a traditional Kiowa ceremony for his work in providing counsel to tribal, state and international governments on treaties.

During his work in the 1970s and early 80s, Kickingbird was executive director of the Washington, D.C. Institute for the Development of Indian Law. That agency served as a legal resource on issues of American Indian legislature and national policy.

While in that post, Kickingbird wrote a number of books on Indian law. One of main points that he's been working to educate non-Native people is the basis for the relationship between the U.S. and tribal government.

“People don't understand that our recognition is really our political identity. We're parts of a government. The tribes have treaties with the United States government. The U.S. government only makes treaties with governments and Indian nations fall into that category, so it's a political right we have, a bargain and sale process, in which we



MNN/Gary Fife

Pictured above is Kiowa lawyer and author Kirk Kickingbird who was recently inducted into the Tulsa Library's Circle of Honor earlier this month.

got something and the U.S. got something. Usually it was land and resources, the right to share our resources and all we're asking for now, is the rent. It's more like that. People don't understand that. They think it's more like a gift, sort of like the welfare or something,” he said.

For the past six years, Kickingbird has been an organizer and instructor in

Nation Building for Native Youth, an Indian youth leadership program based in Scottsdale, Ariz. He currently practices law with the Oklahoma City office of Hoobs, Straus, Dean & Wilder, specializing in representing Indian tribes.

The Circle of Honor ceremony is part of a month-long observance of Native American culture and history at the Tulsa Central Library.

## Administration extends requests for resumes

**Media Release**  
MCN Office of the Principal Chief

OKMULGEE — Principal Chief George Tiger has a new vision for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that includes upholding traditional Muscogee ways and values while at the same time elevating the Nation's government and business operations to unprecedented levels of effectiveness, accountability and service.

To accomplish this ambitious vision, we need to fill multiple leadership positions across the Nation's administrative, health, education, social services, law enforcement, judiciary, and business operations.

Potential candidates should possess the following:

- Experience
- Education
- Proven track record of leadership and accomplishment
- Demonstrate a winning attitude
- Work well in a team environment

• Strong commitment to the Administration's vision and goals for the Muscogee (Creek) people

If you meet the qualifications...

Submit your resume or C.V. to LSpaulding@MekkoTiger.com

Attach examples of your winning attitude, how you have made a difference, your leadership successes and how you have worked well in a team environment to achieve ambitious goals and a shared vision.

All positions are subject to Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Native American hiring preference.

Ce'puyacetos ce!

For more information visit the website at [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov).

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the marriage of: )  
MILLIE HILL, )  
Petitioner, )  
vs. ) Case No. DV-2012-16  
ALVIN HULBUTTA, )  
Respondent. )

**SERVICE OF SUMMONS  
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Alvin Hulbutta

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-, styled In re the Marriage of Millie Hill, Petitioner and Alvin Hulbutta, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a Decree of Dissolution of Marriage from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the Petition filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2012 at 1:30 o'clock P.M. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the Petition being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his Petition.

Given under my hand and seal this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of Feb., 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District  
By: Shablon Mullenbath  
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

In re the marriage of McClish: )  
CATHY ELIZABETH McCLISH, )  
Petitioner, )  
vs. ) Case No. DV-2012-02  
MICHAEL McCLISH, SR., )  
Respondent. )

**SERVICE OF SUMMONS  
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Michael McClish, Sr.

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. DV-2012-02, styled In re the Marriage of Cathy Elizabeth McClish, Petitioner and Michael McClish, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a Decree of Dissolution of Marriage from you based on the grounds of incompatibility.

You are notified that you must answer the Petition filed by the petitioner or appear at the hearing on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2012 at 9:30 o'clock A.M. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the Petition being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in his Petition.

Given under my hand and seal this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District  
By: Shablon Mullenbath  
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE )  
GUARDIANSHIP OF ) Case No. GD 2011-30  
N.S.P. )  
DOB: 06/08/1927 )  
an Alleged Incapacitated Person. )

**SERVICE OF SUMMONS  
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Sandra Parish; Billie Poole; and Karlata Parnusky

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for guardianship in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. GD 2011-30, styled In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Person and Estate of: N.S.P. The action alleges that the Petitioner is entitled to an Order Appointing Guardian of an incapacitated person.

You are notified that you must answer the Petition filed by the Petitioner and appear at the hearing scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2012 at 1:30 P.M. at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Mound Building, Hwy 75 and 56 Loop, Okmulgee, OK or the allegations contained in the Petition will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of Petitioner as prayed for in her Petition.

Given under my hand and seal this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District  
By: Shablon Mullenbath  
(Deputy)

(SEAL)  
Approved:  
Earl E. Townsend, MC20402  
Shannon L. Prosser, MC20402  
Courtney L. Egan-Grady, MC20402  
Gregory N. Hays, MC20404  
MC20404  
114 North Street, North Lobby  
Okmulgee, OK 74447  
(918) 736-2112  
(918) 736-2113  
Attorneys for Petitioner

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE )  
GUARDIANSHIP OF ) Case No. GD 2011-30  
N.S.P. )  
DOB: 06/08/1927 )  
an Alleged Incapacitated Person. )

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Given under my hand and seal this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2012.

Donna Beaver, Court Clerk  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District  
By: Shablon Mullenbath  
(Deputy)

(SEAL)  
Approved:  
Earl E. Townsend, MC20402  
Shannon L. Prosser, MC20402  
Courtney L. Egan-Grady, MC20402  
Gregory N. Hays, MC20404  
MC20404  
114 North Street, North Lobby  
Okmulgee, OK 74447  
(918) 736-2112  
(918) 736-2113  
Attorneys for Petitioner



# Southern Regional Office March calendar

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>
	<b>-Employment &amp; Training here daily 8am-5pm (405) 452-1155</b> <b>-Food Distribution open daily (4005) 452-1175</b> <b>-Housing here daily 8am-5pm (405) 452-1100/1106</b> <b>-Reintegration (appointment only) 1-800-259-1059</b> <b>-WIC (405) 452-1300</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm Social Services 8am-5pm	<b>6</b> Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	<b>7</b> National Council 9am-4pm Legal Services (appointment only) Citizenship 10am-3pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> WIC@Clinic 9am-4pm
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm Social Services 8am-5pm	<b>13</b> Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	<b>14</b> National Council 9am-4pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm Social Services 8am-5pm	<b>20</b> Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	<b>21</b> National Council 9am-4pm Legal Services 9am-3pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> WIC@Clinic 9am-4pm
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Employment & Training 8am-12pm Okmulgee 1pm-5pm Social Services 8am-5pm	<b>27</b> Tax Commission 9am-3pm Lunch 11am-11:30am	<b>28</b> National Council 9am-4pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

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# CREEK NATION COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Summer Youth application deadline set for March 16

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Summer Youth Employment Program is accepting applications for the upcoming year.

The deadline for submitting applications is March 16, 2012 at the Human Development Employment and Training Office.

For more information, please contact 918-732-7775 or 7776. Interested participants may also call 1-800-482-1979 ext. 7775 or 7776. No fax applications will be accepted. Applicants must be a member of a federally recognized tribe and between the ages of 16 and 21.

## Little Cussetah Wild Onion Dinner March 17

SCHULTER – Little Cussetah United Methodist Church will host their annual wild onion dinner Saturday, March 24, beginning at 11 a.m. Dinners will be \$7 for adults and \$5 for children. Price includes all-you-can-eat.

For more information, visit them on Facebook at Little Cussetah UMC or contact Paul Tecumseh at (918) 270-0213 or Nelson Harjo at (918) 752-7731.

## Big Cussetah Wild Onion Dinner March 17

MORRIS — Big Cussetah Indian Methodist Church, located at 20554 Prarie Bell Rd., in Morris will host a wild onion dinner Saturday, March 17 from 11-3 p.m. Adults are \$8 and children 10 and under eat for \$5. Carryout orders are \$8.

## Parent Committee Grocery Bingo March 17

OKMULGEE — The OSU Parent Committee 2011-2012, is hosting a fund-raiser bingo at Okmulgee Indian Community Center Satur-

day, March 17.

Bingo starts at 1 p.m., with the food sale beginning at 11 a.m.

Most of the food items were donated by local businesses. Some of the items available will be homemade chili, desserts, chili-cheese hotdogs, Frito pies and popcorn.

We will also announce the winners of the Lucky Charm Contest.

For more information, contact the Parent Committe at (918) 304-0476 or (918) 752-1444 or by email at: lmbear@okstate.edu

## Concharty UMC Wild Onion Dinner March 31

OKMULGEE — Concharty United Methodist Church will host a wild onion dinner Saturday, March 31 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Adult dinners will be \$8 and children's plates (12 and under) will be \$6.

The church is located at 19040 Garfield Rd., in Okmulgee.

For more information, call (918) 366-8450, email: info@kvnccate.com or visit www.kvnccate.com

## Pickett Chapel Wild Onion Dinner March 31

SAPULPA — Pickett Chapel United Methodist Church Wild Onion Dinner will be Saturday, March 31 from 11-3 p.m.

The church is located five miles south of Sapulpa, at 17610 South Hickory.

Price is \$8 per person and \$4 for children 12 and under.

The menu includes wild onions, fry bread, sweet potatoes, grape dumplings, chicken or salt pork and cake for dessert and tea or coffee to drink.

## Tulsa MCN Headstart raffle set for April 1, 2012

TULSA — Tulsa Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start is conduct-

ing a raffle for ballsticks donated by wood carver Ed Screechowl.

This raffle will help raise funds for tassels, yearbooks and photos for the Pre-K graduating class of 2012.

Tickets are \$1 each or \$5 for six. Drawing will be held April 1, 2012. Winner need not be present at the drawing to claim the prize.

For more information call (918) 237-6123 or (918) 296-0357.

## OFIW to host Easter craft fair April 1, 2012

NORMAN — The Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women is holding a Native American arts and crafts market and Easter auction, April 1, 2012.

It will be open from 3-6 p.m. in the Warrior Room of the Thunderbird Casino located at 15700 E. State Highway, in Norman.

On sale and up for auction will be Easter baskets, crafts, gifts and more. Several Native American arts and crafts booths will be available. The event is open to the public.

For more information or booth space, contact Lisa Frazier at (405) 664-7060 or Nicole Walls at (405) 593-7060.

## Springfield UMC Wild Onion Dinner April 7

OKEMAH — Springfield United Methodist Church will host a wild onion dinner Saturday, April 7, 2012 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Plates for adults are \$9 and \$5 for children 12 and under for all you can eat, and will include a drink and dessert.

For more information call Ethel Humble at (918)-716-0190, or Carol Tiger at (918) 716-8267.

## Sexual Assault Awareness Walk set for April 11

OKMULGEE — “Walk a Mile In Her Shoes” is the theme for the 2012 Sexual Assault Awareness Walk, set

for April 11, 2012.

The event will begin at 1 p.m., at the MCN Mound building. It is sponsored by the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program.

For more information, contact Tina Qualls at (918) 813-6900 or email tqalls@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

## Indian taco sale set for April 21

TULSA — Muscogee (Creek) attendees of the 2012 National Indian Conference on Aging will be holding an Indian Taco Sale fundraiser April 21, 2012 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The sale will be held at the Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center located at 8611 S. Union in Tulsa.

A taco, drink and dessert are \$8, and a silent auction will also be held. Proceeds will be used to attend the coference.

For more information call (918) 298-2464.

## 2012 Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribal calendars now available to citizens

OKMULGEE — a 2012 tribal calendar featuring images of historic leader Opothleyahola, ceremonial dancers, a traditional Christian church and the College of the Muscogee Nation is now available for free distribution to Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens.

The “Visions of Our Ancestors” 2012 calendar includes National Council Planning Sessions, monthly meeting dates, tribal events (such as the Muscogee Nation Festival and Council Oak Ceremony) and the birthdates of the Chief and Second Chief.

The wall calendar measures 13” x 19” and is suitable for home or office use. A larger 24” x 36” calendar is also available for use by community centers and churches. These calen-

dars are available free of charge at the MCN Public Relations office at the tribal complex (no mail deliveries please). Distribution of the large calendars is limited to one per community or church.

For more information, contact MCN Public Relations at (918) 732-7617.

## CMN calls for commentary by April 21, 2012

OKMULGEE — The College of the Muscogee Nation is seeking comments from the public about the college in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency.

The CMN will host a visit May 21-23, 2012, with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association.

The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the college via mail to:

Public Comment on College of the Muscogee Nation, The Higher Learning Commission, 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604-1411

The public may also submit comments on the Commission's Web Site at [www.ncahlc.org](http://www.ncahlc.org).

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs and must be must be in writing.

All comments must be received by April 21, 2012.



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# And Still the Waters Run: *Ft. Mims*

**George Windes**  
*CMCA Historian*

YORBA LINDA, Calif., — In the tragic history of the Muscogee Creek Nation, Fort Mims was a rare “significant victory.” But to the rest of America (in the tumultuous 1810-1820 decade), it was an absolute “massacre of innocence.” The truth is somewhere in-between. War is cruel and messy, always has been, always will be. The innocent do get killed and injured. This narrative is unsettling in the telling, since there is much (on the Redstick side) yet unknown.

A very important book has been written within the last few years; *Conquering Spirit: Fort Mims and the Redstick War of 1813 - 1814*, by Gregory Waselkov. It is the best read by far, of the Fort Mims story. It both identifies and gives a database catalog of several hundred souls whose mortal existence ended that tragic day in August of 1813, both within and without the fort. It is also quick to acknowledge a important happening that precipitated Fort Mims, a white militia attack on young Muscogees who were resting at Burnt Corn Creek about a month earlier. The attack on Fort Mims was thus a retaliation action for the loss of treasured future warriors of the tribe.

Now for a brief history of the historic fort, which was really nothing but a rough one-acre log stockade constructed around the homestead of Samuel Mims near the Alabama River in Alabama. His neighbors were very often of mixed blood heritage, Native Americans who traded and visited there. The battle began August 30, 1813, when several hundred Redstick warriors attacked the woefully unprepared fort. Hundreds of nearby families and soldiers had gone there for safety the previous week. By the time the battle ended, more than 250 of them would be dead.

The fight began as the people of



Photos courtesy/George Windes/Ft. Mims Restoration Association  
Pictured above is “Fort Mims, A Major American Tragedy” (perhaps reflecting that the Creeks won on their own ancestral land). Below is a 2011 reenactment of the battle at Ft. Mims.

the fort were gathering for their noon meal. The main gates of the fort were open and there was a general lack of concern about the possibility of an attack. Slaves tried to warn the militia about seeing some painted Natives in the area the day before. One was publicly beaten for his “lies.” Suddenly a



tidal wave of warriors led by Red Eagle (William Weatherford), stormed out of the woods and rushed the open gate and log walls.

The alarm was spread and all the

men grabbed their arms. Major Daniel Beasley, Commander of the fort, died as he tried to close the gate. The battle raged though the afternoon. The fort occupants fought bravely, as did the Redsticks. Finally though, the house caught fire and Fort Mims fell. Some accounts push the dead within the fort from 250 to 500. Redstick dead estimates vary from 100 up to 300. Many slaves were captured (to continue on as Creek slaves). Perhaps 40 residents

of the fort escaped the carnage, by jumping into the waters of the nearby river.

The “Fort Mims Massacre,” just as “Remember the Maine,” or “Pearl Harbor,” was soon a rallying cry for the people in three surrounding states. Soon three big armies converged on the Creek nation and the Redstick forces were cornered and defeated by Andrew Jackson at

the Battle of Horseshoe Bend the following year.

The ruins of the fort were nearly lost in the following decades until a few local residents began an effort to save the famed site. Amongst them was Davida Hastie,

whose daughter, Lynn Thompson, would write an important early history entitled; *William Weatherford, his Country and his People*. And slowly a partial rebuilt wall, interpretive signs and picnic tables were introduced to the site. Fort Mims is now a state historic site. The five-acre site is located seven miles west of Tensaw, off State Highway 59 in Baldwin County, Alabama. A long-term project to recreate the entire log stockade was finished in 2010. And still more improvements are envisioned by the Fort Mims Restoration Association, as funds allow. A thousand visitors from many nations and nearly all the states visited in 2010.

Creeks who like to travel should consider visiting this important place, to feel of its sadness, and reflect upon

what it meant by being a sovereign Nation. I’ve stood there; walked the paths, escaped to the river (as survivors did) and fought (with painted face), alongside my great great grandfather. Numerous books about his life have been published. A favorite, *Searching for Red Eagle*, authored by Mary Ann Wells of Albuquerque, N.M., takes you on a shotgun journey to the places and stories tied to the famed warrior. She touches ancient tree roots and stone cairns in reliving the legend of “Billy” Weatherford, taught her as a child by her uncle Billy Dees. I have followed her guide.


My great grandma, Josie Freeman, told a few stories about her famed grandfather. Once she stood between her son and a grandson (being disciplined for fighting). Her strong words; “Red Eagle never LIED, but he FOUGHT for what he believed in.” The elders have always spoken great truths in our Creek culture, if we would but listen.

An annual commemoration and reenactment is held at the site each August. The one planned for this year will be held on the weekend of August 25/26. Held over two days, events include reveille, special music, an opening ceremonies gun salute, the reenactments of the Battles of Burnt Corn and Fort Mims, a tomahawk throw, etc. There are displays on archeological finds and food vendors are available. In addition, Sunday morning brings an open-air church service.

Fort Mims happened 199 years ago. Let us never lose the proud Muscogee Nation our ancestors died for. To our elders who have retold the story and become sand in the last two hundred years, MVTO!

*Windes has been an active member of the California Muscogee Creek Association for over a decade and is serving on the Board as historian. He may be reached at: georgewindes@gmail.com*






## 11th Annual

### “TO BRIDGE A GAP” CONFERENCE

APRIL 2 – 5, 2012

#### Choctaw Casino and Resort



The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma will be hosting the 11th Annual “To Bridge A Gap” Conference, in collaboration with the National Forest Service. This conference is designed to strengthen Government-to-Government relationships between federal and state agencies, and federally-recognized Tribes with interests in our forests.




**Topics for this year include:**

- Preconference Tribal Meeting with FCC
- Regional Executive Session with Forest Leaders and Tribal Leaders
- Introductory GPS/GIS Preconference Hands-On Workshop
- NEPA and Section 106: Procedures and Issues
- Traditional Cultural Properties and Sacred Sites
- NAGPRA: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
- Tribal and Federal Collaborative Partnerships
- FCC Consultation Meeting with Tribes
- Tribal Relations Report
- National Historic Preservation Program: Updates and Application Process

**Guest Speaker: TBA**

Several federal and state agencies will be present including National Forest Service from various regions, Army Corp. of Engineers, State Historic Preservation Offices, National Park Service, and National Resources Conservation Service.

The “To Bridge A Gap” Conference is a wonderful opportunity to discuss tribal relations and cultural preservation issues, and participate with others who are dedicated to improving this relationship.

For more information please contact Dr. Ian Thompson, Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Department at (580) 924-8280 Ext. 2216, [ithompson@choctawnation.com](mailto:ithompson@choctawnation.com), or Johnnie Jacobs at (580) 924-8280 Ext. 2559, [jjacobs@choctawnation.com](mailto:jjacobs@choctawnation.com).

Conference registration and hotel information can also be found on the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma website at [www.choctawnationculture.com/TBAG2012](http://www.choctawnationculture.com/TBAG2012).



# McIntosh Co., seeks CASA volunteers

Media Release  
McIntosh Co., CASA

EUFULA — Today and every day in America, five children will die from abuse and neglect. Since 2010, In Oklahoma alone, 10 children have died at the hands of their own parents or caretakers. Currently, in McIntosh County, we have children who, through no fault of their own, have suffered abuse and neglect and are, living with relatives, foster parents, or in youth shelters, while the Department of Human Services and the Court system deal with their cases. These children often have no one, outside the system, to speak up for them in court and some have even fallen “through the cracks” once inside the system. If you care about what happens to these children, enough to want to do something about it, then C.A.S.A. (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Southeast Oklahoma would like to give you that opportunity. CASA’s are ordinary people who care about kids. You don’t have to be a lawyer or a social worker to qualify. You just have to be an adult willing to stand up for an abused and neglected child. As a CASA volunteer you receive official training



from professionals in the field to get you familiar with the court and child welfare system and other important aspects of the cases including child development, interviewing techniques and cultural competency. You are then qualified to be court appointed by a judge. You’ll be given the tools and personal support you need to aid your search for as much information as possible about a child in order to achieve an objective viewpoint of his/her welfare. With about 50 per cent of the children served being boys, we have a special need for more men to stand up and be counted as “everyday heroes” and role models in the lives of these future men. One person could make all the difference in the world to a child suffering from abuse or neglect. That person could be you.

If you’re interested, classes are forming now to begin in the next two months. Please call CASA of S.E. Oklahoma in Eufaula, at (918) 689-9200 or for more information go to;

Oklahomacasa.org or our national website at casaforchildren.org

# National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day set for March 20, 2012

Submitted by John F. (Hawk) Co-Cke', educator and Prevention Specialist  
MCN HIV/AIDS program

OKMULGEE — Tuesday, March 20, marks the seventh observance of National Native American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

This day is set aside to acknowledge that HIV continues to threaten the health and well-being of our Native communities and to encourage all of us to support and advocate for HIV education and services.

American Indians and Alaska Natives rank third in the rate of new HIV infections, as compared to all other races and ethnicities.

HIV/AIDS exists in urban and rural populations, yet many Native people with HIV are not aware of their status. American Indians and Alaska Natives face greater health disparities and risk factors for HIV, such as higher rates of substance abuse and sexually transmitted infections.

These statistics illuminate the need to raise awareness about HIV and demonstrate the need for ongoing initiatives that help make HIV testing, education and health care a routine part of our health services.

We all need to work together to stop this disease. I encourage you to educate yourself and your community about how HIV is spread, prevented, and treated.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation has joined the fight of this disease by sponsoring an educational booth with confidential HIV testing March 20 at the Claude Cox Omniplex from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Visit the booth for more information.

Remember, one way to protect the future our people is to take the test. We have the ability to make a difference.

# Five Tribes Museum to host ‘Art Under the Oaks’ event

Gerald Wofford  
MCN Communications Manager

MUSKOGEE — For Mary Robinson, preparing an artistic event at the Five Civilized Tribes Museum is nothing new.

Robinson, who is the Museum’s Executive Director, has been preparing for two special events to be held in April as part of ‘Art Under the Oaks.’

“It is the plan of the museum that these events will showcase the best in Native American art,” says Robinson. “We are so excited to have these events happening in the month of April,” the Art Under the Oaks Art show begins April 1 and runs through April 30.

Robinson wants the public to know that although both events sound similar, they each have their own unique identity. “This is all about the cultural arts, the pottery, the textile, the basketry, the weaving,” says Robinson when describing the art show, “it’s always a beautiful show because it’s all about three-dimensional art.”

“The festival, which happens on April 21-22 is also a great time to visit the museum,” says Robinson, “because you will not only be treated to the beauty of the Museum, but you will also be treated to historical re-enactments, flute players, basket weavers and don’t forget all the wonderful artists of the five tribes and there is also be the traditional foods that will be served.”

Robinson made sure to point out that Muscogee (Creek) bow-maker Mike Berryhill and river cane basket weaver Mary Edwards Smith will be part of the festival agenda.

Although the calendar will be full in April, Robinson wants everyone to know there are many other happenings throughout the year, such as the ‘Student Art Show,’ which is currently going on.

“This show allows young artists from grades 7-12 to begin to show their art work; we are currently displaying 95



Photo courtesy/Five Civilized Tribes Museum

The Five Civilized Tribes Museum will host thier annual ‘Art Under the Oaks’ exhibit April 1-30 in Muskogee.

pieces from 14 area schools.”

Robinson added that it is interesting to see how budding artists begin their careers and how she has seen many of them mature and display their artwork at the museum when they are older. “Many times this is an opportunity for the young artist to learn more about their culture and display it in this art form.”

Robinson mentioned names such Virginia Stroud, Joan Hill and Enoch Kelley Haney as beginning artists who were involved with the Museum in the student art show.

Robinson said the Museum will feature the ‘Competitive Art Show,’ which involves two-dimensional art and sculpture, showcased throughout the month of July.

Events continue in September with an event that was only created two years ago. “Our Five Tribes Story Conference will be Sept. 21-22,” says Robinson, “we invite 12 of the best Native American authors including Robert J. Conley, Clara Sue Kidwell and Rylla Askew, also artists, poets, musicians, filmmakers

and historians for two days discussing and preserving the culture of the Five Tribes.

Robinson says the unique twist to this conference is that the general audience gets to participate and share their views as well. “It’s a wonderful time, it’s a relaxing time, because at the end of the weekend, you don’t know who the presenters are and who is in the audience because they all become a family of one.”

Robinson credits artists and event co-hosts Tim Tingle and Greg Rogers with the creation of the conference. In November, the Museum will begin to wind the year down with the ‘Masters Art Show.’ “This will be a great time to view some of the artists who dedicated their lives to preserving the heritage and culture of their tribes through the arts,” says Robinson proudly.

The Five Tribes Museum is located on Agency Hill, 1101 Honor Heights Drive in Muskogee.

For more information, call (918) 683-1701 or visit [www.fivestribes.org](http://www.fivestribes.org)

## Judge

Continued from Page 1

The combination of Smith’s family along with Muskogee’s own deep connection with Creek history helped form these roots. “It has been something my Mom made sure I knew about. Here in Muskogee we have the Five Civilized Tribes Museum. That was something we would go to. I’m lucky to have that here, and to have a parent that knew all about that history.”

She continued by explaining how profound her mother’s influence has been in all aspects of her life. “I never grew up thinking I didn’t want to work. I wanted to be like her, she was a huge influence on me. She was well respected by her peers. She worked very hard, and gave me a good example of a professional woman,” said Smith.

Smith also cited another big influence in her life within her own age group.

“My best friend Hilary Matthews Hansen. We grew up together and she now lives in Washington D.C. She works for a firm as a lobbyist. Her, her mother and sister are all really strong women. They had such an effect on me personally and professionally. They helped grow me into a broad-minded woman,” said Smith.

Smith expanded upon the mindset she influenced by Hansen. “I’m very accepting of all different beliefs and personalities. I think a lot of that was because of Hilary. She taught me to think differently and globally. We still talk every single day. She influences, mentors, encourages and helps me.”

Smith has done some teaching of her own through the years. It was her time at SMU in Dallas, where she completed her undergraduate studies, when she realized how unique her upbringing was. She took this as a good opportunity to show her peers what Native life was really about.



Photo courtesy/Smith

Toni Bradley-Smith was recently nominated as the first female judge of Muskogee in 2012.

“That’s the first time I realized that everybody didn’t really know about the Five Civilized Tribes or really about the Indian communities at all. It was really just a good opportunity to show them that I’m Creek. No, I don’t live in a teepee, or any of these other stereotypes,” said Smith.

Although she currently resides in Muskogee, Smith is still showing friends from other parts of the country what it means to be Muscogee (Creek). “A lot of my friends are from California, and many of them have this different idea of Oklahoma and Indians. It is very good to show them that their stereotypes are completely wrong.”

Smith also has some instruction for Muscogee (Creeks) who living in or looking to Oklahoma and wish to practice law. “If you are going to live here you need to understand the different tribes and sovereignty. With all the casinos and all the nations becoming more prominent and having money, the tribes are more able to have a voice and an impact on people.”

She continued with more advice to Muscogee (Creeks) who wish to get into the legal profession. “I would definitely take advantage of all the grants and scholarships that are out there. There is so much money available, make the ef-

fort to look for it.”

Smith and her husband are both in the legal field, and may be raising two legal-savvy children of their own. “We have two boys. They both completely understand what mom and dad do. We’ve caught them before playing like they’re in a courtroom. They decide who’s going to be a judge and who’s going to be an attorney. I guess that’s what happens when you grow up in a house with two attorneys, it’s their normal.”

A proud citizen of the community she serves, Smith described her sentiments towards her new appointment. “I really feel like I am living in such a surreal moment being appointed as a judge. I’m really proud I’m getting to do it in my hometown.”

Smith hopes that these values that have been passed down through the family to her children are something they will share as well. “I tell them to try to be a good influence on people in this community not just in Muskogee but everywhere. Be a good person, someone they want to be around and they respect. Be someone that they admire not for what you have, but for the kind of person you are.”

## MORTGAGE DOWN PAYMENT & CLOSING COST PROGRAM

## FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER EDUCATION CLASS

Because many Native American families find it difficult or overwhelming to purchase their first home The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program is offering a first time homebuyer education class which will help prepare our Native American families for the road to homeownership.

The Homebuyer Class will feature guest speakers knowledgeable in the various aspects of buying a home. From credit and loans to finding the right house and finalizing the deal.

UNDERSTANDING CREDIT AND CREDIT SCORES .....	Mr. David Showalter Data Facts
LOANS .....	Mr. Jon Kennedy, Loan Officer Bank 2
REAL ESTATE .....	Ms. Shelly Rivera, Realtor, Keller-Williams,
ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS .....	Mr. James Williams Environmental Specialist II MCN Environmental Dept.
INSURANCE .....	Phyllis Little Martin AMERIND Risk Services
CLOSINGS .....	Ms. Debbie Haynes, Closer OLT Real Estate Closing Co.

**March 24th, 2012**  
**8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

FOR PRE-ENROLLMENT CONTACT  
LADONNA NORTHCROSS  
918-549-2554, M-F 8AM-5PM

**MCN HOUSING DIVISION**  
**DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**



# Creek Citizen Minnie Charles turns 100



MNN/Gerald Wofford  
Pictured above left to right are Public Relations Coordinator Edwin Marshall, Roger Barnett, Minnie Charles, and Principal Chief George Tiger. Muscogee officials presented Muscogee (Creek) citizen, Minnie Charles with a Pendleton Blanket for her 100th birthday.

**Sterling Cospers**  
*MNN Reporter*

EUFULA — On Monday, Feb. 13, 2012, Principal Chief George Tiger, Second Chief Roger Barnett, Public Relations Coordinator Edwin Marshall, and Eufaula Mayor Selina Jayne-Dornan, along with family and friends all gathered at Wellington Hills Nursing Home in Eufaula to help celebrate the birth-

day of Muscogee (Creek) citizen Minnie Charles. Charles, Tiger, and Barnett are all members of the Muscogee (Creek) Wind Clan. She has been a citizen of Eufaula most of her life and is fluent in the Mvskoke language. Barnett expressed his enthusiasm toward this occasion. “It is wonderful

to see our elders so spiritually blessed, and reach this milestone in their lives. It is our honor to be a part of this celebration for a full-blood citizen. She has certainly given the creator the respect and recognition he deserves and her life is certainly an inspiration that the good Lord is still at work.”

## Creek youth has educational proposal passed by Higher Ed Forum

**Sterling Cospers**  
*MNN Reporter*

BROKEN ARROW — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kaylee Morrison, 16, recently had a proposal passed by the Higher Ed. Forum of Northern Oklahoma creating a student leadership camp for high school students in Tulsa and surrounding area schools.

“One of my teachers nominated me for a student leadership camp, but it was out of state

and really expensive. We wanted to start a leadership camp here so it could help more than one person. We found Pam Pittman, and she said I should write a proposal for the Higher Ed. Forum,” said Morrison.

Pittman, who is on the forum, pointed out the uniqueness and innovation of this young Creek citizen. “We have had graduate students present proposals for internship projects. This is the first high school student proposal that we’ve had. So she’s really carving new territory.”

According to their website, the Higher Ed. Forum is a group of nine post-secondary institutions within Northeastern Oklahoma.

Pittman gave a more in-depth explanation of the forum. “We collectively wanted to see what we could do to pool resources and bridge high schools to post-secondary schools. We are a front door for creating academic-based projects. We have projects that are presented to the Higher Ed. Forum in front of the nine institutions and three school districts.”

She continued by telling about the day Morrison gave her proposal. “In Kaylee’s case, she did great job. She stood up in front of 85 people and told her story. There were a lot of questions and answers and she was very poised, and really spoke from her heart.”

Morrison’s grandmother Nancy Smith explained what the proposed camp might include. “All day they would have a bunch of motivational speakers, and workshops. They may also have a lunch

and memento. She may just want to help the kids discover leadership skills they already have and help them put those into practice,” she said.

Pittman described the arrangements of the seminar in further detail. “It will be a one day workshop, it will be every fall, and our first one in 2012 will be in Broken Arrow.”

Northern State University in Broken Arrow is one of the nine institutions on the forum, and one of many who volunteered to help Morrison host and structure the camp. “NSU immediately said they would like to host this event. This leadership seminar has 15 individuals who signed up, across all of the higher ed. institutions to be an advisor to Kaylee and her project,” said Pittman.

Individuals from the institutions within the forum will not be the only people involved in creating this event. High school students from multiple districts will have candidates chosen from them to attend the camp, and a select group of students from each school within these districts will be chosen to help create the camp as well.

“The team working on the event will be 10th through 12th graders. The students already have the committee formed. We will rotate where the meetings are so that the students can see each other’s high schools,” said Pittman.

The idea behind having the students work on the project as well as attend is a strategic plan designed to create as broad of an educational experience as possible. “We are working on creating a quality experience for students who are planning this event. To develop skills working in a group,” said Pittman.

According to Pittman, having the students within the committee rotate schools is all part of this quality and well-rounded educational experience. “It is a diverse group process involving different school districts. It is going to require some really great dialog and finding a way to collectively work together to keep those goals.”

Diversity within the presentation is also something Pittman encouraged the student committee to include.

## Veterans’ Scoop: Service, Trauma, and PTSD

**Laura Savage, LPC, LADC**  
*BHS Clinician, Sapulpa Clinic*

OKMULGEE — Native Americans serving in the military today carry on a time-honored tradition continued from the first settlers on this continent to the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Historically, Native Americans have enlisted in the military at a greater per capita rate than that of any other ethnicity and have proven themselves to be outstanding warriors.

Incidentally, there are currently 28, or more, Native American Medal of Honor Recipients. The Medal of Honor is the highest award of military valor.

There are also many Native American recipients of the Purple Heart Award. Many soldiers are physically wounded or even killed while serving our country. Others have wounds that are not so easy to see such as depression, anxiety, addictions, and traumatic brain injury. Many have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Not everyone who goes through trauma will get PTSD, but keep in mind that good treatments are available even if you only have some PTSD symptoms. If you have been through a traumatic event, it may be difficult to talk about your experiences. For this reason the National Center for PTSD staff have put together the checklist below.

### Brief checklist of trauma symptoms

Check the symptoms below that you experience. Include symptoms you have even if you are not sure they are related to a traumatic event.

I experienced or witnessed a traumatic event during which I felt extreme fear, helplessness, or horror.

The event happened on (day/month/year).

What happened?

1. I have symptoms of re-experiencing or reliving the traumatic event:

- Have bad dreams or nightmares about the event or something similar to it
- Behave or feel as if the event were happening all over again (this is known as having flashbacks)
- Have a lot of intense feelings when I am reminded of the event
- Have a lot of physical sensations when I am reminded of the event (for example, my heart races or pounds, I sweat, find it hard to breathe, feel faint, feel like I’m going to lose control)

2. I have symptoms of avoiding reminders of the traumatic event:

- Avoid thoughts, conversations, or feelings that remind me about the event
- Avoid people, places, or activities that remind me of the event
- Have trouble remembering some important part of the event

3. I have noticed these symptoms since the event happened:

- Have lost interest in, or just don’t do, things that used to be im-

portant to me

- Feel detached from people; find it hard to trust people
- Feel emotionally “numb” and find it hard to have loving feelings even toward those who are emotionally close to me

- Have a hard time falling or staying asleep
- Am irritable and have problems with my anger
- Have a hard time concentrating
- Think I may not live very long and feel there’s no point in planning for the future

Am jumpy and get startled easily

Am always “on guard”

4. I experience these medical or emotional problems:

- Stomach problems
- Intestinal (bowel) problems
- Gynecological (female) problems

Weight gain or loss

Pain, for example, in back, neck, or pelvic area

- Headaches
- Skin rashes and other skin problems

Lack of energy; feel tired all the time

Alcohol, drug, or other substance use problems

- Depression or feeling down
- Anxiety or worry
- Panic attacks
- Other symptoms (list them)

Summing it up

These are all natural reactions to unnatural, even horrific, circumstances such as war. The stresses of military service can

adversely impact people of all ages, races, ranks, and education levels. It affects those who serve and those who love

them. If you, or someone you know, has these, or other, symptoms, help is available. Psychological wounds, like

physical wounds, can be treated. The caring, professional clinicians at MCN Behavioral Health are well-equipped to provide counseling, education, support, and referrals to veterans and to their families.

Veterans...know that you are not alone and have not been forgotten; it’s not a sign of weakness to reach out for help...

it’s a sign of strength...the same strength that led you into battle will lead you safely home and to wellness again. Don’t

suffer needlessly, professional and confidential help is readily available. For more information and/or to schedule an

appointment to see a mental health and/or substance abuse professional, contact Behavioral Health at 918-758-1910.

We have offices in Okmulgee, Okemah, Wetumka, Eufaula, Sapulpa, and Coweta to serve you.

*MCN Veterans’ Scoop features articles and updates from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) and other credible sources.*

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## Coming and Going in Indian Country

by Joy Harjo

It's early spring. Wild onions are beginning to sprout in my yard here in Glenpool, and the birds are all on the hunt for mates. There's a Robin family that has been here for years. They know my sister Margaret and her family and have noticed that they are no longer living here. They have been checking me out and I have to tell them who I am, where I've been, and that I will be the one staying here. Once I tell them with my mind, they fly off, satisfied. They are probably the 30th generation. Basically this yard is their territory. I will have to fit myself in. The same goes for the Redbird family here. They sing every morning and help me put my feet on the ground and keep going.

Sam Proctor asked me when I'm having a party. I will and everyone will be invited. (Especially you, Sam.) And there will be music. I've always loved the story of my grandfather Monah-wee (Menawa) who when visited by a government agent on official business, came out to properly greet him then excused himself by telling the agent that he was partying with his people and wouldn't be done for a few days. He met with the agent two days later.

Now, that's a good reminder for many of us. When we're about to let our last breath go on this earth, will we be regretful about paperwork, emails or Facebook, or missing a sale at Kohl's? What will we wish we had done? What words are we carrying that need to be said? What could we do to lift the burden of someone? A good party can be a tonic for everyone. We're human beings. We light up by sharing stories, songs, laughter, and even crying together when we need to grieve. And dancing feeds all your systems with energy. Music lifts us up.

My memoir *Crazy Brave* will be officially out in July so I may have the party between June and July. The Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame has offered their facilities. I'll let you know. Gary White Deer also has a memoir coming out sometime this year and a party between us is also appealing. I got a sneak preview. His memoir, *Touched by Thunder* is witty, funny and insightful, in a very Mvskoke way (he's Choctaw with Mvskoke relatives).

When I was down in Mexico in the town of San Miguel de Allende I kept thinking of our people. The way I understand it is that some of the migration paths came up from the south. Others of us came up from the earth, and some arrived in our traditional homelands from the West. I saw Mvskoke-looking people everywhere, though most were officially Mestizo. To claim yourself as "Indio" is as demeaning as it was in our parent's generations. In fact, when I tried to get a person of the tribal people indigenous to the area there to open my performance, I was told by a conference official "there are indigenous people, but they aren't really active here anymore". I knew that wasn't true because I'd seen them all through town. Someone else confirmed later that yes, there are indigenous people there with living cultures.

A beautiful young Huichol woman attended the conference where I performed and spoke. Her culture was alive in her. She, like many others, was embracing her cultural language and knowledge, despite the prevailing colonial attitude toward the "Indio." She was concerned, as were many, about the plan for a Canadian oil company to construct a huge pipeline through Mexico. Some things don't change, like the attitude of destroyers that it's alright to run a pipeline through a country, break up the land, destroy peoples and cultures, and suck out of excessive amounts of oil, gas, coal or uranium that were never meant to be pulled out of the earth in such quantities.

Before I forget, there was a fiesta there, a party in honor of the speakers, who also included Margaret Atwood and Elena Poniatowska. There were Spanish and Indian dancers, mariachi bands, folk dancing, lots of good food, and fireworks. I celebrated with everyone.

And I celebrate spring as I write this. Those wild onion dinners are coming up—time for a good party!

# 2012 MCN Election information

## Media Release

### MCN Election Board

OKMULGEE — VOTER REGISTRATION ELIGIBILITY

- ENROLLED CITIZEN
- 18 YEARS AND OLDER

ENROLLED CITIZENS; IF YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED A VOTER OF THE TRIBE CONTACT THE ELECTION BOARD BY CALLING 918/732-7631 OR 732-7736. THE REGISTRATION CLERK WILL MAIL YOU A VOTER'S REGISTRATION FORM OR YOU CAN COME BY THE ELECTION BOARD OFFICE LOCATED AT THE MAIN COMPLEX ACROSS FROM THE RECEPTION DESK. WE WILL NEED A COPY OF YOUR TRIBAL ENROLLMENT CARD.

VOTER ADDRESS ALL MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION REGISTERED VOTERS (PRECINCT AND ABSENTEE VOTERS), CONTACT THE ELECTION BOARD OFFICE AT 918/732-7631 OR 732-7736 TO MAKE SURE YOUR VOTER INFORMATION IS UP TO DATE. VOTER, IF YOU HAVE MOVED PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE OF THE NEW ADDRESS. IF YOU KNOW OF ANY VOTER WHO IS DECEASED, PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE SO THAT HE/SHE CAN BE REMOVED FROM OUR FILES.

**ABSENTEE VOTING**  
THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION ELECTION BOARD ENCOURAGES REGISTERED VOTERS TO REGISTER OR CHANGE THEIR VOTING STATUS AS AN ABSENTEE VOTER IF THE CITIZEN; WORKS ON WEEKENDS, HAS CHILDREN ACTIVITIES ON SATURDAYS, WILL BE OUT OF TOWN ON ELECTION DAY, ANY ELDERLY WHO IS HOME BOUND AND ALSO TO MAKE IT CONVENIENT FOR ALL REGISTERED VOTERS.

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST FORMS WILL BE MAILED OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE REQUEST FORM MAY BE MAILED, E-MAILED, FAXED OR BOUGHT IN PERSON TO THE ELECTION BOARD OFFICE. THE FORM MUST CONTAIN THE SIGNATURE OF THE VOTER. THE VOTER'S SIGNATURE IS VITAL TO THE ABSENTEE VOTING PROCESS.

**ELECTION DATES:**  
PRIMARY ELECTION: MAY 5, 2012  
POLLS OPEN: 7 A.M.-7 P.M.

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST DEADLINE: APRIL 12, 2012 5 P.M.

ABSENTEE BALLOT MAIL OUT: APRIL 16, 2012

PRECINCT REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 25, 2012

ABSENTEE/PRECINCT REGISTRATION RE-OPENS: MAY 10, 2012

GENERAL ELECTION: JULY 7, 2012

POLLS OPEN: 7 A.M.-7 P.M.



**PRECINCT VOTERS**  
ALL PRECINCT VOTERS; ON ELECTION DAY PLEASE VOTE AT THE PRECINCT POLLING SITE WHERE YOU ARE REGISTERED. IF UNSURE, CALL THE ELECTION BOARD OFFICE BEFORE ELECTION DAY AT 918/732-7631 OR 732-7736.

ELECTION DAY, IF YOU VOTE AT A DIFFERENT POLLING SITE OTHER THEN WHERE YOU'RE REGISTERED YOUR NAME WILL NOT BE LISTED ON THAT POLL BOOK. ALL POLLING SITES ARE OPEN 7 A.M. TO 7 P.M.

**CANDIDATE FILING** - MARCH 26-28, 2012: 9 A.M.-4 P.M., AT THE TRIBAL CONFERENCE ROOM, MCN COMPLEX

WHEN FILING, CANDIDATES WILL NEED THE FOLLOWING;

1. TRIBAL ENROLLMENT CARD
2. CASHIERS CHECK OR MONEY ORDER IN THE FEE AMOUNT OF \$200.00

MADE PAYABLE TO: MCN ELECTION BOARD

3. CREEK NATION VOTER'S CARD WITH CURRENT ADDRESS
4. IF EMPLOYED BY CREEK NATION AND ENTITY OF CREEK NATION A LETTER OF LEAVE STATUS FROM CREEK NATION PERSONNEL

DOCUMENTATION OF RESIDENCE MUST BE ANY TWO (2) OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS (ALL DOCUMENTS SHALL CONTAIN THE CANDIDATE'S NAME AND CURRENT ADDRESS);

- INCOME TAX RETURN FOR THE PRECEDING YEAR
- HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION, OR COPY OF PROPERTY TAX
- COPY OF HOUSE DEED OR STATEMENT FROM CREEK NATON HOUSING AUTHORITY CONTAINING DATE OF RESIDENCY
- IF RENTING, A NOTARIZED STATEMENT FROM THE LANDLORD CONTAINING DATES OF RESIDENCY WITH THE LANDLORD'S ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER.

- UTILITY BILL IN CANDIDATE'S NAME WITH CURRENT ADDRESS,
- ONE BILL WILL BE ACCEPTED.
- DRIVER'S LICENSE/STATE I.D. WITH CURRENT ADDRESS

ALL DOCUMENTATION MUST CONTAIN THE SAME ADDRESS.

## McHenry coaches Indians to 12-1 season

### Darren DeLaune

#### MNN Sports Reporter

CATOOSA — Coach Joe McHenry is going into his 14th year as a Varsity Assistant Coach for the Catoosa Indians. Some wear and tear is usually easy to spot but this isn't with Coach McHenry. He admits that he has football in his blood and seems to be getting stronger and more passionate about coaching as time passes.

McHenry, who coaches the tight ends and defensive ends for the 4-A team are coming off a stellar 2011 season record of 12-1 with a return trip to the state semi-finals (loss to Clinton 27-24).

McHenry, born and raised in Coweta, has always been around the game of football. His father, Ron, was his coach growing up and when he went to college, McHenry wanted to be an elementary teacher.

The fire from his playing days reignited so he changed his major to Secondary Education to become a high school coach. "I ran away from the game for a little while." Said McHenry. "Now that I look back at it, I wanted to come back to the game."

One of the great things about coaching according to Joe, is the fact that his father is coaching alongside of him. "We get to work a lot together on defense." says McHenry. I played linebacker in high school and he was my position coach then and currently that is what he is coaching now with us (Catoosa)."

"This year was a great success for our team. Last season (2010) we were a team that could run and pass the ball, while this season (2011) we were primarily a run team. So to be able to change our game plan and our style of play shows how tough our players are and also shows what they are willing to do to be successful for this school." said McHenry.

One thing McHenry wants to instill in his players is hard work and discipline and to play hard, all "four quarters," no less than 100 percent on every single down. "What I always tell the kids is if you practice hard, you play hard in the game, I remind them that what they do in practice is what they will do in the game," says McHenry.

The love for this sport seems to run in the family. McHenry's brother, Steve, coaches the wide receivers and defensive ends at Ponca City High School. We can say this family is a "football family."

This season's Catoosa Indians won their first outright District Championships. In the past, they shared the District Championship with another team, but this season, the district belongs to them alone.

McHenry, also teaches 7th and 8th grade keyboarding and Introduction to Computers at school. In his spare time, when not around football, he spends it with family.

McHenry, Creek-Choctaw, resides in Broken Arrow.



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Funding for this event was provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Grant Number 90-FM-0023. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.